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Terrorism Review



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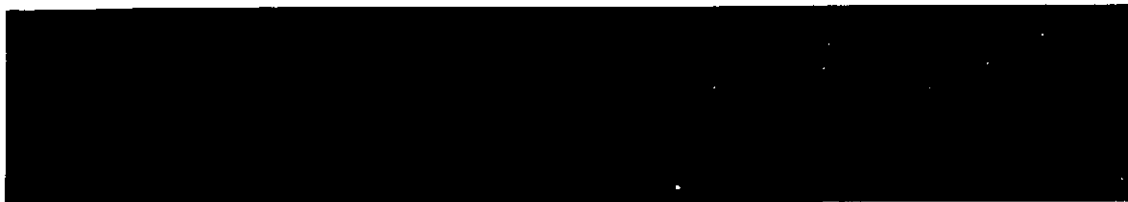


Chile

Terrorism on the Rise

January marked a sudden surge in terrorist activity in Chile, with a wave of anonymous bombings throughout the country. The largest and most active group, the leftist Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front, claimed responsibility for burning government vehicles and sabotaging Santiago's powerlines. Front leaders, however, deny government charges that they masterminded an attack on an Army clinic in Valparaiso, alleging rightwing terrorists carried out the bombing to scare the Chilean public. [REDACTED] Finally, a small, Castroite group—the Movement of the Revolutionary Left—admitted to the bombing death of a senior police officer. [REDACTED]

Terrorist activity is likely to intensify in the coming months as both leftwing and rightwing extremists try to influence the outcome of the single-candidate plebiscite later this year to determine whether President Pinochet remains in power. Leftist terrorists hope to demonstrate that only violence can oust Pinochet; rightwing extremists—often acting anonymously or attempting to implicate the left—aim at boosting the President's popularity with security-conscious Chileans by convincing them that he is the only alternative to chaos. [REDACTED]



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